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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/220,830	12/24/1998	ROBERT W. SISSON	E-826	5561
919	7590	08/03/2004	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Defective Appeal Under 37 CFR 1.192

1. Appellant's brief, filed 05/03/2004, is defective because the requirements of 37 CFR 1.192 have not been met.

Specifically, MPEP 1206 (5) requires that applicant provide a concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

Further, MPEP 1206 (8)(iv) requires that for each rejection under 35 USC 103, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and, if appropriate the specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied on in the rejection, and shall explain how such limitations render the claimed subject matter unobvious over the prior art. If the rejection is based upon a combination of references the argument shall explain why the references, taken as a whole do not suggest the claimed subject matter, and shall include, as may be appropriate, an explanation of why features disclosed in one reference may not be properly combined with features disclosed in another reference. A general argument that the limitations are not described in a single reference does not satisfy the requirement of this paragraph.

Specifically, argument A is to a rejection involving Dolan, not associated with group I and is, therefore, confusing. and argument B appears to be to claims 1, 6-7, also not a specified grouping.

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2. Applicant is given 1 month to reply to this Notice of Defective Appeal Brief.

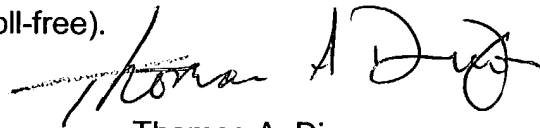
Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas A. Dixon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3629

July 04